

## **CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:  
a faceplate comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality;

a flange; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connecting the rear wall to the flange; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an electrical instrumentality.

2. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 1, wherein:

2                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to  
3                   an electrical instrumentality which means comprises part of the faceplate is one or more  
4                   apertures in the faceplate as well as one or more apertures in the connecting wall when  
5                   the fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality is a screw; and

6                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an  
7                   electrical instrumentality is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the  
8                   channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a  
9                   threaded aperture for the channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box.

1                 3.         The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 2, wherein:  
2                   said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

1                 4.         The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 3, further  
2                   comprising:

3                   a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4                   of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5                   each side; and

6                   wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7                   edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

1                 5.         The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
2                   said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

1                 6.         The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 5, further  
2                   comprising:

3                   a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4                   of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5                   each side; and

6                   wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7                   edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

1                 7.         An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:  
2                   a faceplate comprising:

3                   a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall  
4                   containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for

accommodating a fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a releasable fastener;

a flange; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connecting the rear wall to the flange; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate.

8. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 7, wherein:

the means for accommodating a fastener in the rear wall of the faceplate is one or more apertures in the rear wall of the faceplate when the releasable fastener is a screw; and

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the

channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box when the releasable fastener is a screw that will pass through the aperture in the rear wall of the faceplate.

9. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 8, wherein:  
said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

10. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 9, further  
comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

11. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 7, wherein:  
said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

12. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 11, further  
comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

13. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:  
a faceplate comprising:

an outer portion comprising:

4 a flange;

5 an interior surface having sides, being attached to the flange, and  
6 projecting generally rearward from the flange; and

7 a longitudinal projection extending inward from each side of the  
8 interior surface and having a means for accommodating a releasable  
9 fastener; and

10 an inner portion comprising:

11                   a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear  
12                   wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means  
13                   for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an  
14                   electrical instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a second  
15                   releasable fastener; and

16                   an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall  
17                   and connected to the rear wall, with the dimensions of the interior surface  
18                   of the inner portion being such that the interior surface of the inner portion  
19                   will fit into and slide along the interior surface of the outer portion with  
20                   substantially no gaps between such interior surfaces; and

21                   a box comprising:

22                   a rear wall having a perimeter;

23                   ~~a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the~~  
24                   perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom  
25                   containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel  
26                   having an interior end; ?

27                   a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the  
28                   connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall  
29                   extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

30                   a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally  
31                   forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front  
32                   portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a  
33                   second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the  
34                   same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front  
35                   portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the  
36                   interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth;

37                   a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to  
38                   an electrical instrumentality; and

39                   a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said  
40                   box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate.

- 1        14. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
2              the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the longitudinal projection  
3              is an aperture when the releasable fastener accommodated thereby is a screw;  
4              the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to  
5              an electrical instrumentality which means comprises part of the faceplate is one or more  
6              apertures in the faceplate as well as one or more apertures in the connecting wall when  
7              the fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality is a screw;  
8              the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an  
9              electrical instrumentality is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the  
10             channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a  
11             threaded aperture for the channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box;  
12              the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box  
13              and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate is a covered interior end  
14              having a threaded aperture for the channels on the sides of the lateral surface of the box  
15              so that said threaded aperture can receive screws which pass through the apertures in the  
16              longitudinal projections; and  
17              the means for accommodating a second releasable fastener in the rear wall of the  
18              faceplate is an aperture.
- 1        15. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 14,  
2        wherein:  
3              said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.  
1        16. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 15, further  
2        comprising:  
3              a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4              of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5              each side; and  
6              wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7              edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.
- 1        17. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
2        said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

1           T8     The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 17, further  
2 comprising:

3                 a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4                 of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5                 each side; and

6                 wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7                 edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

1           19.     An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

2                 a faceplate comprising:

3                 an outer portion comprising:

4                 a flange;

5                 an interior surface having sides, being attached to the flange, and  
6                 projecting generally rearward from the flange; and

7                 a longitudinal projection extending inward from each side of the  
8                 interior surface and having a means for accommodating a releasable  
9                 fastener; and

10                 an inner portion comprising:

11                 a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear  
12                 wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means  
13                 for accommodating a fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical  
14                 instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a releasable  
15                 fastener; and

16                 an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall  
17                 and connected to the rear wall, with the dimensions of the interior surface  
18                 of the inner portion being such that the interior surface of the inner portion  
19                 will fit into and slide along the interior surface of the outer portion with  
20                 substantially no gaps between such interior surfaces; and

21                 a box comprising:

22                 a rear wall having a perimeter;

23                   a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the  
24                   perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom  
25                   containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel  
26                   having an interior end;

27                   a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the  
28                   connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall  
29                   extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

30                   a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally  
31                   forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front  
32                   portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a  
33                   second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the  
34                   same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front  
35                   portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the  
36                   interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth;

37                   a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to  
38                   said faceplate; and

39                   a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said  
40                   box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate.

- 1                   20. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 19, wherein:  
2                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the longitudinal projection  
3                   is an aperture when the releasable fastener accommodated thereby is a screw;  
4                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the rear wall of the  
5                   faceplate is one or more apertures in the rear wall of the faceplate when the releasable  
6                   fastener is a screw; and  
7                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said  
8                   faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of  
9                   the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the  
10                  channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box when the releasable fastener is a  
11                  screw that will pass through the aperture in the rear wall of the faceplate; and

12                   the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box  
13                   and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate is a covered interior end  
14                   having a threaded aperture for the channels on the sides of the lateral surface of the box  
15                   so that said threaded aperture can receive screws which pass through the apertures in the  
16                   longitudinal projections.

- 1                 21. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 20, wherein:  
2                   said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.  
1                 22. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 21, further  
2                   comprising:

3                   a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4                   of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5                   each side; and

6                   wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7                   edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

- 1                 23. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 19, wherein:  
2                   said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.  
1                 24. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 23, further  
2                   comprising:

3                   a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each  
4                   of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from  
5                   each side; and

6                   wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an  
7                   edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

- 1                 25. An extender for a traditional electrical box, which comprises:  
2                   a first side having a front, a back, a top, and a bottom with the top and bottom  
3                   beyond the position of the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box, said first side  
4                   containing an aperture that will be above a height equal to the top and an aperture that  
5                   will be below the level of the bottom of a traditional electrical box, with such apertures  
6                   also being at a position that will be in general alignment with the projections on the top  
7                   and bottom of a traditional electrical box;

8           a second side having two channels to accommodate projections on a traditional  
9           electrical box and also having a front, a back, a top, and a bottom with the top and bottom  
10          beyond the position of the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box, said second side  
11          containing an aperture that will be above a height equal to the top and an aperture that  
12          will be below the level of the bottom of a traditional electrical box, with such apertures  
13          also being at a position that will be in general alignment with the projections on the top  
14          and bottom of a traditional electrical box;

15          a wall attached, at a distance from the back of the sides of the extender greater  
16          than the distance between the open front of a traditional electrical box and the projections  
17          for holding nails on the top of a traditional electrical box, to said first side and said  
18          second side running from the bottom to the top of said first side and said second side,  
19          containing one or more instrumentality apertures, having a lower aperture and an upper  
20          aperture that, when the extender has been placed upon a traditional electrical box, will  
21          generally be aligned with an upper and a lower channel of a traditional electrical box,  
22          said wall also having a top and a bottom;

23          an upper segment running along and attached to the top of said wall between said  
24          first side and said second side of the extender from said wall to the front of the said first  
25          side and said second side, said upper segment also being attached to the top of said first  
26          side and said second side; and

27          a lower upper segment running along and attached to the top of said wall between  
28          said first side and said second side of the extender from said wall to the front of the said  
29          first side and said second side, said upper segment also being attached to the top of said  
30          first side and said second side.

1           26. The extender for a traditional electrical box as recited in claim 25, further  
2          comprising:

3           one or more apertures in said wall for accommodating one or more screws for  
4          attaching a faceplate to an electrical instrumentality.

1           27. The extender for a traditional electrical box as recited in claim 26, further  
2          comprising:

3           a faceplate comprising:

4                   a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall  
5                   containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for  
6                   accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical  
7                   instrumentality;

8                   a flange; and

9                   an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and  
10                  connecting the rear wall to the flange.

1                  28. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

2                  two generally L-shaped sides, each having a first end, a second end, a bottom, and  
3                  a shorter leg with an inside edge;

4                  a back panel running the length of and attached to the first end of each of said  
5                  L-shaped side, said back panel having a bottom;

6                  a bottom panel attached to and running between the bottoms of said L-shaped  
7                  sides and also attached to the bottom of the back panel;

8                  a front panel, having a top and attached to the second end of each of said  
9                  L-shaped sides running between said L-shaped sides from the bottom of said L-shaped  
10                 sides to the vertex of the L and also attached to said bottom panel;

11                 a U-shaped ledge having two legs, having an inside of a bottom of said U-shaped  
12                 ledge attached to the top of said front panel, having an outside of the legs of said  
13                 U-shaped ledge attached to the generally L-shaped sides in substantial alignment with an  
14                 inside edge of a shorter leg of the L, having a threaded aperture in each leg of said  
15                 U-shaped ledge, and having a secondary aperture in at least one leg of said U-shaped  
16                 ledge;

17                 an insert slidably mounted above said U-shaped ledge, said insert having a top,  
18                 bottom having ends, two sides, and outer edges, with an aperture in the bottom of said  
19                 insert to accommodate a switch and an aperture in one or more ends of the bottom of said  
20                 insert designed to be substantially aligned with one or more of the secondary threaded  
21                 apertures in one or more legs of said U-shaped ledge after said insert has been slidably  
22                 mounted above said U-shaped ledge; and

23           a flange extending from the outer edges of said insert generally perpendicular to  
24           the top, bottom, and two sides of said insert.

25